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Executive Registry
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1 July 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

General Counsel

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1. With the agreement of Colonel White and Colonel Baird, I asked [REDACTED] to see me Friday morning. We had a half-hour discussion, and for my first point I stated that he must take for a fact the existence of a poor administrative situation in his office. Every one of his employees had complained in one place or another on either professional or administrative items, or both. The nature of the complaints was not important, nor was their validity. Any office in which all the employees complained and stood ready to repeat their complaints presented a serious administrative problem. I told [REDACTED] that his own office appeared to me in such shape that either he should be fired or his staff should be fired or both. I stated that I did not know which would be the proper move; I was merely asking him to accept a factual situation which required administrative resolution. In regard to the so-called report submitted by [REDACTED] I told him it was a self-servicing document which, I was sure, the Director would not read. I said I felt its submission served no good purpose, and it would be better if it were not on the record at all.

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2. I then went on to point out that there were charges against him of which he said he knew nothing and which were not answered. I stated that I could assure him categorically that all such complaints had been reviewed, and those touching on his professional ethics and competence had been reported on by three psychologists of whom one, I believed, had his full confidence. He agreed in the case of [REDACTED]. I stated that these three, taking the complaints as stated and with no refutation, i.e., in their worse light, had agreed that they did not materially impugn his professional standing or reputation. I suggested that such a conclusion was, in effect, more satisfactory than would be an investigation with charges, countercharges, questioning and cross-questioning; and that, on the professional side therefore, he should be willing to accept this conclusion.

3. On the administrative side I suggested that a resolution would be acceptance by him of another job within the Agency inasmuch as it appeared that the whole program of his office might be altered in such a manner that his old position no longer existed. This would give him an adequate explanation to those of his associates who might be wondering what had been going on in recent weeks. I stated that if he took a new position, the grade of that position would depend on his new supervisor. [REDACTED] started to protest that he felt he would be blocked by the Acting Personnel Director, and I told him flatly he was wrong and had misconstrued or misunderstood statements made to him by Colonel Baird. I also pointed out to him that from an administrative point of view he was not in a good position to insist inasmuch as whatever self-justifications he might have, to an outsider looking in he had been guilty of a severe breach of Agency regulations and had been involved in the administrative pr

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set forth above. [redacted] asked me for my advice, and I stated that I would talk with Colonel Baird about the availability of a suitable position and if one existed my advice would be for him to take it and forget about a hearing and by all means to forget about the slander action. [redacted] said he had told his attorney that he would not return to the slander action under any circumstances without first talking to me. I discussed this with Colonel Baird who said he would survey the available jobs and confer further.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON

OGC/LRH:kr

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